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from the Budget

JAN 1990

Oklahoma Amish Mennonite from The Budget - January 1990

Oklahoma Amish Mennonite from The Budget - Feb., March, & April 1990 .

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EDNA (ERS) SCHIRACK
1791 UNION CITY ROAD
GREENVILLE, OHIO
45331

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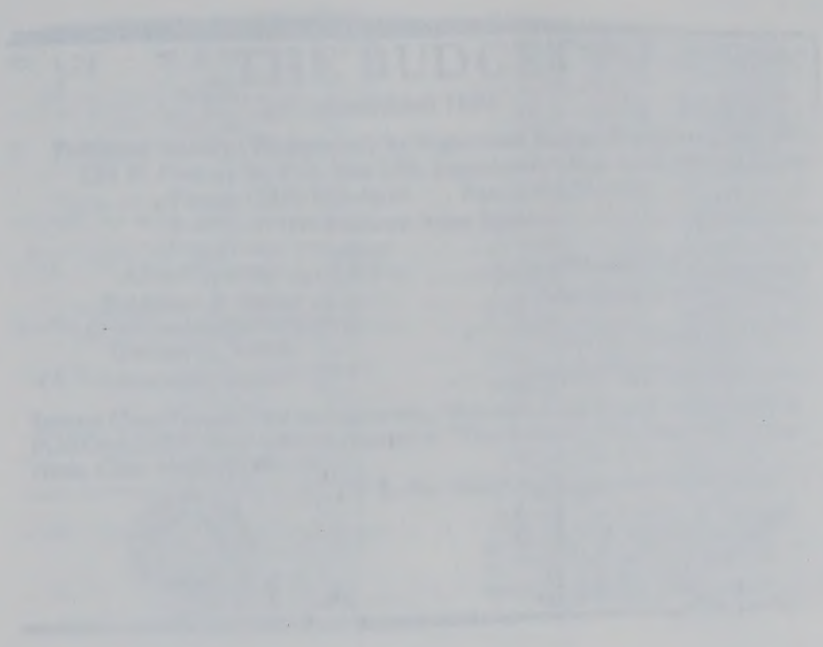
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45331

(2-1990)

AMISH-MENNONITE IN OKLAHOMA FROM THE BUDGET

JAN 1990

Allen County Public Library
P.O. Box 1000
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BY:

EDNA (ERB) SCHIRACK
1791 UNION CITY ROAD
GREENVILLE, OHIO
45331

&

LARRY SCHIRACK, JR
1791 UNION CITY ROAD
GREENVILLE, OHIO
45331

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BY:

EDNA (MRS) SCHIRACK
1791 UNION CITY ROAD
GREENVILLE, OHIO
43131

&

LARRY SCHIRACK, JR
1791 UNION CITY ROAD
GREENVILLE, OHIO
43131

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Albert Spector

Publisher & Editor

George R. Smith

Associate Editor

Fannie Erb

Managing Editor

Marcia Troyer

Family Pages Editor

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NNA

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Dec. 23--We're having real winter weather. Temperature is froze to, or near the zero mark. It really doesn't seem so cold, but we have had a lot of strong winds. Our county seat, Pryor, broke the record of 8° below, coldest temperature in 40 yrs. for the month of Dec.

Robert W. Miller had surgery on his knee last Tuesday as an outpatient.

Bill Detweilers came home from Fla. where they live in the winter, for a few weeks. Bills and all their children are having their Christmas today at the Nelson Chupp home.

Eli Burkholders of Fla. also came to spend the holidays with their children, the Dave M. Yoder and Ivan Gingerich families.

Lloyd Ropps, Marlene and Galen, Jay Millers, Wayne and Lonnie and Miriam all left Fri. p.m. for Hutchinson, Kan. to pick up 2 more of their children, the Glendon Ropps and Morris Yoders family, then go to Kalona, Ia. to spend the holidays with their other 2 sons and families, the Lavern and Freeman Ropps.

Miriam Miller will stay in Kan.; all the Ropps came back again.

If their plans hold out Eli M. Schrock, Alfred Yoders, 6 children, Leroy Detweilers, 3 children and Floyd Schrock are leaving for Guthrie, Kentucky for the holidays, till this evening.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Dec. 27--We've had recordbreaking weather the past week with one morn. at 15 below zero. Reports were this hasn't happened since the early 1800s. By Sat. we had a warming trend come through and Christmas Day was in the 50s.

Visitors here in the area over Christmas were Abe & Dorothy (Wingard) Kuhns and children from Arthur, Ill. and Lorene Wingard from Sarasota, Fla. with their mother Clara Wingard and family.

Also Leroy & Barbara (Mast) Lambright and family from the Goshen, Ind. area, Floyd & Mary Ann (Mast) Miller and children from Plain City, Ohio with the John Mast family.

Ervin & Esther Yoder and dau. Ruth from Garnett, Ks. are spending this week with Amos & Bertha Miller and family. Sun. dinner guests in the Amos Miller home in behalf of Ervins were Earl & Irene Wingard and family, Larry & Merlene Wingard and girls and David & Martha Miller and girls.

The Schrock, Wingards and Masts had a dinner at the church fellowship hall Sun. in behalf of the Abe Kuhns, Lorene Wingard and Leroy Lambrights. The Floyd Millers had intended to be here Sun. also, but due to frozen water pipes at home they couldn't leave as soon as planned, so they missed the Sun. noon gathering.

Those arriving in the Daniel Swartztruber home Tues. p.m. were Daniel's sister, Erma Jean, also Wayne, Wanita & Gloria Nisely from Montezuma, Ga. They are spending several days here and then travel on to C.B.S. at Calico Rock, Ark. on Sat.

Those attending C.B.S. from here are Keith Mast, Freeman Schrock and Paul Yoder.

Earl and Irene Wingard and girls left for Phoenix, Ariz. Tues. morn. to enjoy several weeks there. Kenneth Schrock and Olen Wingard are spending a week in Fla.

Joe Yoder saw the specialist in Clinton last week and he is continuing his chemo with the pills for now and also the doctor allowed him to be up and move around some, such as going to the bathroom, etc. For going elsewhere he is supposed to use the wheelchair to keep the stress off of his back and legs. They have a hospital bed in the living room so he can enjoy the street traffic from where he lays. Alice Mae's sister Fannie from El Reno and some of Fannie's children visited with Joes Sun. p.m. Walter remains about the same and the same goes for Aunt Katie and Dad.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

Dec. 26--Our weather has finally returned to normal again after two weeks of extreme cold temperatures. Our coldest was 12° below zero, which was the lowest ever on record for this area. So, of course, there were a lot of frozen water pipes and also reports of livestock going through the ice on ponds. Ponds are the main source of water for the livestock here. Several of our neighbors lost stock that had gotten on the ice during the night and were frozen the next morning.

Our church services were at Norman Millers' on Sunday. They had supper and singing for the neighbors and young-folks. Church to be at Mart Hostetters' in two weeks.

The Ben J. Troyer family, Mrs. Mattie Hershberger and dau. Fannie and Mart Hostetters and boys are spending several weeks in Ohio. They expect to be home around the 4th.

David Stutzman and Amos Miller are doing Bens' chores and Vernon Millers are taking care of Marts' chores.

The Raymond Millers

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Dec. 19--We've been having zero weather this last week with snow over the weekend, also high winds several days that put the chill factor way below zero.

Levi and Amanda Stutzman were visitors in our morning services Sunday.

Sunday noon a surprise birthday carry-in dinner was held in the Truman Schrock home in honor of Truman's 50th birthday which was the 11th. Those attending were Clara and Olen Wingard, Joni and Edith Schrock and family, Daniel and Karen Swartzentruber, Amos and Susan Yoder and boys, Gry and Mary Schrock and family, Viola Wingard, Lydia Schrock, also Eli, Malinda and Ruth Ann Yoder.

Sun. p.m. was the 50th anniversary reception of Willis and Miriam (Thomas) Miller at the Pleasant View Menn. Church. Their wedding day was the 21st. The church presented them a quilt with the church families names embroidered on it.

Last Wed. night, the 13th, a Christmas supper was held in the fellowship hall at the church with special singing and several congregational songs.

Thurs. night, the 21st, is our program at school with the youth group also participating.

A correction in last week's letter about R.L. Yoder having open heart surgery. I was misinformed and he did not, but his condition and disease of the heart were diagnosed and treated. He was released again when satisfactorily recovered.

Vernon and Grace Frymire expect to move into their new home in Thomas this week.

Aunt Katie is the same; she continues to have her weak spells and then recovers again.

Dad had a week spell again Mon. morning, but is better again.

Keith Mast and Wayne Schrock plan to attend the Christmas banquet at Hutchinson, Ks. Fri. evening. Keith's sister Lareeta then plans to come back with them to spent Christmas school vacation with her family, the Perry Masts.

Melvin, Fannie and Joni Yoder left today for Daviess Co., Ind. to spend Christmas with son Cletus and family over Christmas. They plan to make an overnight stop with Ray and Susie Marks and family near Joplin, Mo.

Amos and Rhoda Yoder and baby plan to spend Christmas with her family, the Floyd Martins, at Leon, Ia.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 1--Nights are cold but daytime gets warmer again. Still no moisture.

Visitors in church Sunday were Ervin and Esther Yoder and dau. Ruth from Garnett, Ks. and Luane Beachy and Clayton Yoder also from Garnett, Ks. Ervins accompanied Luane and Clayton back to Ks. Monday after spending the holidays with Esther's sister Bertha, Amos and family.

Also attending was Lorene Wingard from Sarasota, Fla. She's also planning to return home this next week sometime after spending several weeks with her mother Clara and family.

Mary Ann (Mast) Miller and children from Ohio and Barbara Ellen (Mast) Lambright and children from Ind. also attended. Their husbands, Leroy and Floyd, left for home already day after Christmas and the rest of the families stayed to spend more time with Johns and family. They plan to leave the last of the week. Last Sat. they and Perrys all went to Anadarko Children's Home to see Florence. She didn't name them, but they felt she knew them and seemed happy and contented.

Dad is looking pale and seems more tired lately. I am afraid his weight loss is beginning to show up, as he's not eating enough to keep an energy level up. Mom isn't feeling so well either, hard for her to keep up with things. They appreciated their mail over Christmas from their many friends. On Wed., the 3rd is Mom's 78th birthday and Dad will be 80 the 10th of Feb. The family will take in supper for her birthday Wed. evening.

Aunt Katie is about the same. Last I heard she weighed only 77#. The food she gets has to be given through a syringe.

Uncle Henry Millers and Aunt Lydia Stoltzfus from Hutchinson, Ks. came Mon. and visited with Joe and Alice Mae and Aunt Katie. They made a stop at the folks' in the p.m., then spent the night at Uncle Johns' in Clinton. They plan to return home Tues. again. Joe's condition seems better this past week.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

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CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Dec. 30--Has warmed up since my last writing and had a little rain.

North church was at Perry L. Yoders' and is to be at our house next time. Strangers there were Bish. Eli Burkholder of Sarasota, Fla., Albert N. Yoders and 4 children from Kalona, Ia. and John Masts of Nappanee, Ind.

Albert Yoders came late Sat. evening to spend a few days with his folks, the Noah Yoder family. They left again for home Wed. afternoon.

John Masts were here till Tues. morn. to be with his mother Anna Mast and family. Were at the Crist Millers' on Christmas Day.

Sam Christners, dau. Debbie from Nappanee, Ind. came Sun. afternoon, planning to spend a week with their son, the Glen Christners and 2 daus.

Noah Ray Chupp took the Kenneth Knepp family to Clarita, Okla. to spend Christmas with the Joe Mast family. One of Joe's daughters came to spend some time with Kenneths.

Darrel Yoders and Rudy Chupps and 2 children went to Nappanee, Ind. for the holidays. Dale Yoders and son went to Shipshewana, Ind. All 3 have at least 1 of their parents living there. Dales' son James is staying at the Mervin Yoder home.

Clarence J. Millers, Orva and Irvin, Velda and Joellen, Robert and Mervin Millers, Perry Lee, Marvin and Vernon Yoder families and Martha Yoder all went to Topeka, Ind. to be with the Joe Freys (their parents and grandparents) to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30 at the Honeyville school house. Enos Yoders and boys went along to visit her family, the Melvin Freys.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 9--Pleasant weather continues with daytime temp. in the 50s and enjoyed several days in the 60s as well. Nights get cold, but still no moisture. Reports of the past week were of cattle being taken off wheat in some surrounding areas and being sold due to our lack of rain, as the wheat fields do not have the needed amount of pasture anymore. To my knowledge, no large amount of this has happened in the area where we live, although more farmers will be faced with it soon unless it rains.

Jane Stoltzfus from Blackville, S.C. was a visitor in the community over the weekend, with special interests in the Earl Wingard home. Paul Dean met her at the Okla. City Airport Thurs. night and her return flight was Mon. morn. The youth group was in the home of David & Martha Miller Fri. eve. in her behalf.

Earl & Irene Wingard and girls returned home from their Ariz. trip on Fri.

Perry, Mary & Nathan Mast took Lareeta to Ks. Sat. to resume her school activities again at Pilgrim High.

Last Wed. eve. Perrys had the youth group in their home in behalf of Lareeta before she goes back to Ks. again. The youth enjoyed a treasure hunt and snacks afterwards.

Our annual church business meeting will be held Wed. eve. in conjunction with prayer meeting.

Thurs. will be the monthly sewing at the church.

We are anticipating an enjoyable weekend, as Beulah & Brenda, our daus. from Fla. plan to come by plane on Thurs., the 11th.

During this school year the church families are taking turns to take in a hot lunch each week. Other years it was a monthly project with several families combined, but since there are so few children, it was decided on a weekly basis and just one family.

Our older folks in the community remain about the same. Eli's mother, Katie, has finished the quilt now that we put in for her 1st of Nov. and she did very well with it. She has an appointment with the doctor the 12th again. The doctor was well pleased with how her blood level held at the last appointment.

George King was visiting in the area several days. He teaches school in Canada. Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 8--The last week we've had real nice sunshine days and also cloudy and one day we had some rain.

North church was here at our house with several from South church. Strangers were Dea. Ray Bontragers and dau. and Enos Schrock from Haven, Ks., Merle Yoders and dau. Sara of Gonzales, Tex.

The Ray Bontragers were spending the weekend with his sister, the Alva Yoder family. Enos Schrock was at her niece's, the John Henry Yoders. They had come with Glendon Ropps & dau. Kimberly, who spent their time with their parents, the Norman Miller and Lloyd Ropp families.

Linda Miller (Alvin) of Kalona, Iowa, is spending some time with her aunt, the Lloyd Ropps.

Last Sun. South church was at Joe Masts'. Strangers there were Bish. Eli Burkholder, Sarasota, Fla., who spent 2 weeks here with their children. Irene Mast (Joe), Clarita, Okla., Paul Chupp (Ura) and Lester Miller (Albert), Nappanee, Ind. Paul and Lester were here for a week, but left on Mon. eve. for home. Paul had spent a few days in Stephenville, Texas.

Sun. morn. as we were ready to leave for church, my 2 nephews, Sam and Merle Miller (Orla), and Melvin Miller (Al) of Topeka, Ind., drove in and were here till Fri. eve.

Fri. morn. son Merles and dau. Sara came to spend the weekend. Plans are to leave for their home again Mon. eve. to Gonzales, Texas.

Last week David Yoder was helping hang doors on a shed and the ladder slipped out from under and he fell around 10 ft. Is a lucky man, even if he is sore and can hardly get up and down. He doesn't want to go take an x-ray, but feels he hurt his ribs.

Mose Yoders, Noah Yoders and Melvin Yoder got the death message of their cousin Noah Miller in Ohio, who was sick with cancer. So they left Mon. eve. (New Year's Day) with Velma Williams for the funeral and came back home again Fri. eve.

Min. John W. Millers are the parents of a little girl, Jennifer Diane, since Jan. 5. Grandparents are Ora Yoders of Inola and Willard Millers of Nappanee, Ind.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 8--The weather has been nice and mild the last while, going up in the 60s in the afternoons.

Church was at Mart Hostetlers' yesterday. They had supper and singing for the neighbors and youngfolks. Church to be there again on the 21st.

Marts and the Ben J. Troyer family had been gone to Ohio and Indiana over the holidays and arrived home early Fri. morning. So Susan didn't have much time to get ready for church, with Saturday being Old Christmas.

They had van trouble on the way home. Had to change motors at Indianapolis, Ind. They pulled a 4-horse trailer and brought 4 standardbreds back from Ohio.

Vernon Millers did Marts' chores while they were gone and David Stutzman and Amos A. Miller took care of Bens' chores.

Herman Yoders had Ora Hostetlers and all the youngfolks for dinner on the 6th (Old Christmas). The youth had their Christmas exchange in the afternoon. They had been waiting till Bens and Marts were home.

Herman Stutzmans, Dan Masts and us visited with Abe Hershbergers Sat. afternoon. Their little dau. came home from the hospital the day before New Year's and is doing well.

The Raymond Millers

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 15—It was less than a month since Mayes Co. broke the record for having the coldest, now this week the record was broken for having the warmest, when temp. went up in the 70's.

South church was at Norman Millers'.

Strangers here for the weekend were a load from Hutchinson, Kan., Jerry Beechy, Stanley Headings, Devon and Wanita Yoder and Denise Mast. They were spending their time in different homes.

John Henry Millers from Kalona, Ia. came to spend a few days with their son, the Chrissie Miller family and her sister, Barbara Chupp. If I'm not mistaken, the women stayed with Barbara while the men went to church.

Thurs. morning Nelson Yoders, Cristie A. Millers, Mervin D. Millers, 2 sons and Irene Mast went to get acquainted with the little Miss at the Abe Hershberger home. Plans were to stay overnight, except Irene Mast was going home. She had been staying at the Kenneth Knepps' since Christmas.

It is at least 2 weeks ago that David J. Yoder had surgery to fix a hernia that had started with infection, so had to stay at hospital several days.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

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THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 17--Warm spring weather continues. Had a nice rain Tues. evening which really refreshed things.

Beulah left for Fla. Tues. p.m. Just as we were arriving at the airport, we drove into a thunderstorm with a heavy downpour and quite a bit of lightning. Brenda plans to leave Sun. p.m.

Our local paper stated an unusual account Mon. of the death of a husband and wife within 24 hrs. The 87-yr.-old man died Fri. at the hospital and the 90-yr.-old woman died in her sleep early Sat. morning.

Aunt Katie is a flu victim at present, so isn't doing well at all, as she can't take food, so it just weakens her condition even more.

Dad seems to be feeling better again and really enjoys company.

The youth, also Beulah, Brenda, Eli and I took supper in for dads Fri. eve. and then sang for them, which they really enjoyed.

Kevin Schrock had the cast and pins removed from his wrist last week and is doing well.

Our family, also Glen and Darlene and Joni Schrock, Kevin and Kaylene enjoyed pizza Sun. eve. after church in the home of Daniel Ray and Karen Swartzentruber in behalf of Beulah and Brenda.

Kenneth Schrock and Olen Wingard came home from Fla. Monday. Freeman Yoder accompanied them here.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 21--We're enjoying spring-like weather after having a total of 6 inches of rain the past week. The wheat fields are turning green again.

Church was at Martin Hostettlers' yesterday. Our visitors from Sulfur Springs area were the Melvin D. Miller family, Jacob Weaver and Harvey Troyers and 3 boys. Harveys also had 3 of Myron Hershbergers' children along. They all stayed for supper and singing. Bobby Bear furnished transportation.

The Nelson Yoder family of Chouteau spent last weekend with their children, Allen Yoders and Abe Hershbergers. Nelsons stayed till Tuesday, then Daniel and Kathryn Yoder came after them.

John Henry Stutzman brought a load of calves up from Sulfur again on Saturday. Calf prices remain steady around \$125 for Holsteins and \$145 for cross-breds. Milk prices for Grade A is right at \$16.50 per cwt for 3.5% milk.

We want to put a new cover of plastic on our greenhouse this morning, as it is once again time for starting seeds.

The Elmer Yoder Construction gang has started remodeling the house on John Henry Stutzman's property.

The Raymond Millers

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 22--The past week was cloudy and had close to 3 in. of rain, with thunder and lightning.

North church was at Eli Detweiler's for Johnny Bontragers and is to be there again next time.

Several were missing on account of the flu that's going around. That flu bug sure has been busy.

Our oldest member, Mrs. Anna Mast, wasn't there. She fell last Sun. night in the bathroom and hurt her side. Now they found out she has a few broken ribs. Tomorrow, the 23rd, will be her 80th birthday. Her address is Rt. 1, Box 341, Chouteau 74337. Am sure she is always glad for mail. Her dau. Elizabeth stays with her.

Clarence J. Millers got the message that their aged grandmother passed away last Sun. So Noah Ray Chupp took Clarences and 3 daus., Velda, Mrs. Perry L. Yoder and Mrs. Marvin Yoder, to the funeral in Topeka, Ind.

The David Jay Yoders left with their neighbors Cecil Atchleys to spend some time in Fla.

Jonas (83) and Delila (78) Yoder are having their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 6, 1990. They still live alone in an apartment at a rest home. Delila has had rheumatoid arthritis for years and is confined to a wheelchair, or recliner. Jonas gets around with a walker, or cane, and still takes care of her with the help of a parttime maid. Their meals are brought in 5 days a week. He is the Jonas in the new book, "Footprints of Noah and Deemy Yoder." She was the dau. of Joni and Susan (Miller) Yoder of Thomas, Okla. They attend the Zion Menn. Church. Their address is 218 S. Adair, Apt. 4, Pryor, Okla. 74361.

In the year of 1989 we had one wedding, 2 deaths, and 9 new babies, 5 boys and 4 girls.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 24--Had a nice rain the past week and temp. has been pleasant. Some areas reported 1½". Wheat fields are rapidly responding to the much needed moisture and are getting nice and green again.

Brenda Yoder took her grandparents, Harvey and Katie Yoder, to the restaurant for dinner last Fri. Sun. morning Brenda spent some time with my parents before coming to church. She left Sun. p.m. for Fla. again by plane.

Larry Cotton from Lawton was a visitor in our services Sunday evening.

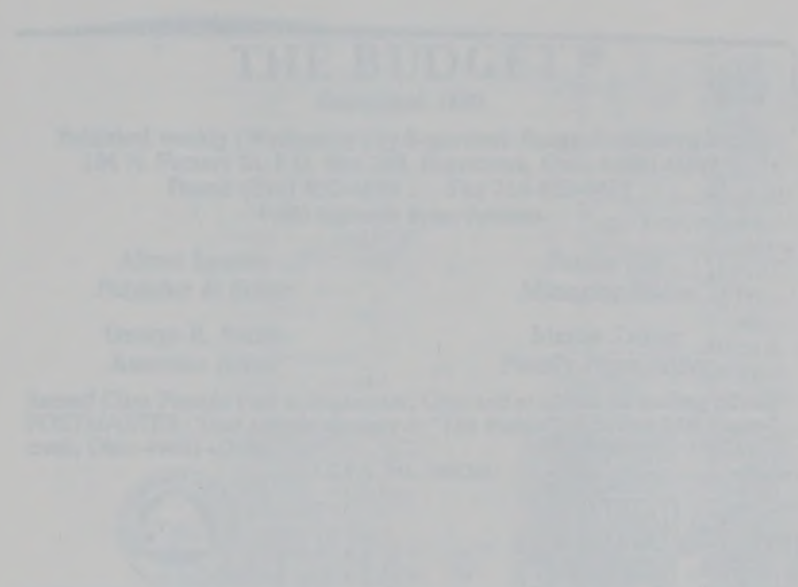
Aunt Katie passed away Tues. morning, the 23rd. She suffered quite a bit of pain the last while. The last she was weighed it was at 66#. She hadn't been taking hardly any nourishment the last while and the past week very little liquids. Services are Thurs. p.m. the 25th at the Brethren In Christ Church in Thomas where her dau. Grace and Vernon Frymire attend.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

A1
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B1
Beachy 3
Bear 9
Beechy 7
Bontrager 5-9
Burkholder 1-4-5
C1
Christner 4
Chupp 1-4-5-7-9
Cotton 10
D1
Dean 5
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Weaver 9
Williams 5
Wingard 1-2-3-5-8
Y1
Yoder 1-2-3-4-5-6
7-8-9-10

OKLAHOMA AMISH MENNONITE FROM THE BUDGET

FEE, MARCH & APRIL 1990



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Albert Spector
Publisher & Editor

Fannie Erb
Managing Editor

George R. Smith
Associate Editor

Marcia Troyer
Family Pages Editor

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CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 29--The last week has been real nice for this time of the year. The mornings are frosty, but usually warms up some during the day.

South church was at Mervin N. Yoders', where they had 3 fremde diener, the Raymond Millers, and Martin Hochstetlers from Clarita, Ok. and Clayton Knepps from Haven, Kan.

Others that were in church from Clarita were Melvin Hershbergers, 2 of Raymond Millers' girls, Heidi and Lori Yoder (Herman), a Mast girl, David Stutzman (Herman), Bruce Troyer (Ben) and there might have been more that I didn't get their names. Then the Levi Knepps from Yoder, Ks. and Al Frys from Shipshewana, Ind.

Al Frys from Ind. were spending a few days in Kan. with his sister, the Clayton Knepp family. Als also wanted to come here and spend the weekend with her sister, the Enos Yoders, so the Clayton and Levi Knepps came along to spend some time with the David Knepps. If I'm not mistaken, they have all left for their homes already.

Thurs. p.m. Velma Williams took Eli Schrock, Mrs. Leroy Detweiler and 2 children to Jamesport, Mo. to visit their father and grandfather, David Schrock.

Elis also have a son and dau. living there. If their plans hold out they'll be back sometime Tues.

Lloyd Ropps got word that her aunt, Mrs. Amos Bontrager of Thomas, Okla. passed away. Funeral was Thurs. p.m. They didn't go, but Linda Miller, Kalona, Iowa staying in the Ropp home, went with the Andy Chupps of Pryor.

Sat. eve. Garnett, Ks. sent word down that Mrs. Andy S. Miller passed away. Her funeral is to be tomorrow.

Last Mon. Clarence Jay Miller pinched his little finger when he jerked it back. He same as tore his nail off and had to have some stitches put in.

Mrs. Amanda Chupp left for Fla. last Mon. to visit her bro. Demas Troyer, who is in a home. Plans are to be gone at least a week. Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Jan. 29--Weather has been pleasant the past week.

Visitors attending our services Sun. were Mervin Schrock from Ohio and Don Lehman and dau. from Hagerstown, Md. Don is attending an FAA seminar in Okla. City for 10 weeks and since his wife and dau. were spending some time with him this past week they came over from Okla. City for the Sun. morning service and had dinner with the Clyde Yoder family. Others there for dinner were Gary and Mary Schrock and children.

Mervin Schrock has been visiting with his sisters Larry and Merlene Wingard and girls and David and Martha Miller and girls. They all had Sunday dinner together at Larrys', also Paul and Ruth Wingard were there for dinner.

Aunt Katie passed away Tues. the 23rd. She had a lot of pain the last while. Services were Thurs. the 25th at the Brethren in Christ Church. Her children were all here, Amy and her husband Dan Bender came from Mo., also Fannie and some of her children from El Reno. Walter of course was unable to attend. Fannie said his condition remains about the same. Katie's son Frank and wife, also his sons from Wichita, Ks., Alvin's 3 sons also attended. Joe and Alice Mae's 2 daughters were able to come, Joyce from New York and Debbie from Mo. Joyce already had her trip planned here for last week to visit her folks'.

Other relatives attending were Henry Millers, Ben Miller, Lydia Stoltzfus, Mrs. Katie Yoder, Melvin Millers and some Bontrager cousins, Roy and Alice Stutzman, also Katie, Mary Ann and Nora, Mrs. (Alvin) Fannie Miller, Mrs. Enos Schrock and several others whose names I didn't get, all from Hutchinson and Haven, Ks. area.

From Minn. were Joe Millers and David. From Ia. were Delila Bontrager, son Henry and dau. Ruby. From Chouteau, Okla. were Anna Mae (Bontrager) Ropp and her niece Linda Miller from Ia. Their drivers were Andy and Lizzie Chupp. Four of Aunt Polly's children came, Walter from Harrisburg, Pa., Pollyanna from Belleville, Pa., and Lloyd

and Mary, both from Greenwood, Dela. From Tx. was Paul Miller.

Walter left by plane again on Sunday, but the others stayed till Mon. On Sun. a carry-in dinner with all the cousins and Uncle Johns from Clinton was enjoyed in the fellowship hall of the Brethren in Christ Church in Thomas. Dads didn't attend the carry-in, but they both attended the funeral and evenings after the funeral the Miller relatives that came all gathered at the folks' and we enjoyed ice cream sandwiches, etc. together. Tomorrow (the 30th) it's a year Aunt Anna died, so one week less then a yr. 3 sisters died. Only Lydia and Delila are left of the girls in the Miller family.

Sat. morning Earl Wingards received the shocking news from Garnett, Ks. of the sudden death of Irene's sister Susan, wife of Andy Miller, leaving 11 children behind. The baby is 3 weeks old. Those from here leaving for the funeral tomorrow, the 30th, were the Earl Wingard family, Amos C. Yoders and Marilyn Yoder, also Amos and Bertha Miller (Susan is Bertha's niece) and cousins, Melvin Beachy, Eli Yoder and Melvin Yoders. Susan's death is the 2nd grandchild in the Jonas Beachy family in 6 months time. The other grandchild was Mark Miller, son of Amos and Bertha Miller, last June. Susan was the dau. of Toby and Barbara Yoder.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 5--Clear skies and 32° this morning. We had another 2½" of rain the past week. The wheat fields are really greening up.

Church was at Herman Stutzman's yesterday. Hermans had supper and singing for the neighbors and young folks. Church to be there again in two weeks.

Mart Hostetters, Norman Millers, Arlene Mast, Heidi and Lori Yoder, David Stutzman and Bruce Troyer and the wife and I, plus Susan and Mary attended church at Mervin Yoders' of Chouteau last weekend.

Herman Yoders attended the funeral of Mrs. Andrew Miller of Kansas the forepart of last week. They traveled with Harvey Troyers and Mrs. Melvin D. Miller and dau. Verna from Sulfur Springs area.

John Henry Stutzman is bringing a load of calves up from Sulphur today. Joe Masts and Mart Hostetters, also Herman Yoders are getting some.

A lot of small planes and helicopters had been searching this area the past several days for a small private plane that had been missing since Wednesday. Reports are it was found last evening about 7 miles north of Coalgate. It had crashed and all 4 people in it were killed.

Andy Millers want to move to their new house this week.

Melvin Ray Millers of Stephenville were in the area several days looking for a place to move to. They have to vacate the house they are living in as soon as the hay season starts. Raymond Miller

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 7--Weather continues spring-like with occasional cold windy days. Some nights are freezing and below, but usually warms up during the day.

Visitors in our morning service Sun. were Jeffery and Paula Yoder, Sara Smucker and Lareeta Mast, all from Ks. They brought Lareeta home for the weekend, being her 17th birthday on the 14th. Perrys had invited the home youth in for dinner as a surprise for her. They returned to Ks. again in the p.m.

Dennis Hershbergers and family from Kokomo, Ind. were visitors in our service and were guests with the Truman Schrock family. They had also spent a night with them last week as a Mennonite Your Way family and were returning from their western trip on Sun.

Eli returned home Mon. evening from weekend meetings at the Providence Church in the Franklin, Ky. area.

Mrs. Thelma (David) Yoder passed away this week. Services were held in Okla. City and the burial at Canton on Tues. p.m. beside her husband David. It's close to a yr. or maybe over that David died. Thelma was a cancer victim.

Glen and Darlene Yoder left Tues. evening for Montezuma, Ga. to spend several weeks with homefolks.

Correction in last week's letter of the second Jonas Beachy grandchild's death in 6 months. It wasn't calculated correctly. Mark's death was June 20th and then Susan Yoder's from Ks. was Jan. 27th which would have made a week over 7 months. Both deaths were very unexpected & sudden.

Dad says he feels about like he has been but he was looking so pale now for several days again. His mind seems quite clear right now. I would like to say to his eastern friends if you could see your way clear to come visit them it would mean so much to him. Sat. the 10th is his 80th birthday.

Amos C. Yoders and Joni Schrock attended the 60th wedding anniversary of Jonas and Delila Yoder on Sun. the 4th at the Zion Menn. Church at Pryor, Oklahoma. Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 5--Nice weather again after a few days of clouds. Had some rain, which we were glad for.

North church was at Eli Detweilers', and to be at Orie Detweilers' next time for their son Leroys.

I want to correct one of my mistakes when I said our oldest member would be 80. I made her 5 years younger than she is. Someone thought that would be better than making it 5 years older.

Early Tues. morn. Noah Ray Chupp and Paul Krocker took Eli and Ivan Gingeriches, John Henry, Min. Levi, Alva and Lloyd Yoders, Bish. Crist and Norman Millers, Lloyd Ropps and Mrs. Floyd Troyer to Garnett, Ks. to attend the funeral of Mrs. Andy S. Miller.

Late Mon. eve. Amzie Kauffmans and David Kauffmans and 4 children came to the Mose Yoder home for the night. The next morn. the Kauffmans and Mose Yoders left for Phoenix and other places farther west. Plans are to be gone around 2 weeks.

Wed. eve. Noah Ray Chupps left for Fla., taking Floyd Millers, Andy Yoder, Mrs. Mervin N. Yoder, 3 children, Lisa, Lora and Matthew and her niece Jessica Yoder to spend some time with their parents who are there for the winter.

Thurs. eve. some stopped in the community on their way to Phoenix, Ariz. They were from Bloomfield, Iowa, the Perry Yoders and David Yutzys (Budget scribe). Perrys spent the night at Irvin Jay Millers'. Davids were at the Verba Yoder home.

Several years ago a couple moved a big antique-looking house from Tulsa out here south of Chouteau. They had big plans to have it restored to look like it used to. After having some carpenters working on it awhile, they said they'd wait to finish till they had some more money again. They finally just moved a trailer on the lot and lived there for awhile, till a few years ago they sold the lot, house and trailer to Alfred Yoders. Guess they feel it would be cheaper to just tear the house down and start all over. So the next 2 days they are having frolics to tear the house down.

Melvin Chupp from Ohio and Herman Chupps from Tex. were spending the Jan. 27th weekend with the family of the late John Chupps.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 13--Weather has been mild the past week, although colder weather is predicted. Temperatures have been warm enough that some things are budding out and it's too early, as we'll have freezes yet. Wheat fields are showing some growth now.

Visitors in church Sun. were Verlin Miller from Hutchinson, Ks. and Miriam Bender from Princeton, Mo. Miriam and Kaylene Schrock returned home Sat. from their trip to Fla. Miriam plans to return home yet this week.

Glenda Miller returned home Thurs. evening from her trip to Haiti.

Suetta Wingard is returning home today from her week's vacation to Sarasota, Fla. She had flown to Dallas and there met her mother Emma Miller and her sis. Sherri and together continued their flight on to Sarasota and spent the week with Emma's parents, Jonas and Lizzie Yoder. On Sun. the 10th was the 50th wedding anniversary reception for Jonas and Lizzie.

Sun. the family had a carry-in dinner at Dads' for his birthday. Uncle John and Mary from Clinton were there also. Mary and Dad both have birthdays the 10th.

Sun. p.m. the youth and sponsors had services in the Weatherford and Hydro Nursing Homes.

Paul Dean and Mary Ellen Wingard took Keith Mast back to C.B.S. Sat. for the last term. They returned home again Sun. evening. Keith had attended the 1st term with intentions of staying all 3 terms, but wasn't feeling well, so had come home with the other youth attending at the time.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

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Inola, Oklahoma

In memory of Albert (Al) Troyer,
passed away Feb. 28, 1986, age 75.

The Pain of Parting

As we do our work each day,
Painful memories cross our heart;
And we often think back sadly,
To the days we had to part.

From our dear departed loved ones,
Even now it brings the tears;
Will it always press so strongly,
On into the coming years?

Oh! They say time heals all the sorrow,
And we're glad it is that way;
For God knows we could not carry,
Such a burden everyday.

Tho' at times we feel we cannot,
And we feel our hearts will break;
Then we hear a tender whisper,
"Fear not, child, I will not forsake."

So we wipe our falling teardrops,
Meditate on memories sweet;
We no longer think of parting,
But instead when we shall meet.

-Precious Memories,
by Wife, Dau., Son-in-law
and Grandchildren

7

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 12--Is still nice weather; some were thinking of going barefooted. But I feel that's why so many are having colds. We had one day that was cloudy and some rain.

South church was at Nelson Yoders' and is to be at Levi Yoders' next time. Min. Ben Troyer of Clarita was visitor.

The rest of the load from Clarita was Ben's wife, Melvin Hershbergers, Herman Yoders and dau., Freeman Yoders, Allen Yoders, 2 children and Abe Hershbergers and 2 children.

Hermans spent their time with her folks, the Melvin N. Yoders; Freemans with his parents, the Emanuel Yoders; Allens and Abes with their parents, the Nelson Yoders. They all left for home again last evening except Mrs. Abe Hershberger and 2 children are planning to stay here the rest of this week.

The Eli Gingerich family received the death message of a nephew and cousin, son of Perry Hochstetlers of Ligonier, Ind. Melvin M.S. Yoders

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 19--The weather is some colder; the mornings are frosty but usually warms up till noon. Also had 2 days of cloudy, rain, mostly misting.

North church was at Orie Detweilers' for their son Leroys and is to be at Ories' next time.

The flu is still trying to hit everyone. Measles are also making their round, mostly preschool children.

Pre. Noah Yoders, Delbert and Edith Yoder (Lloyd) left early Sun. morning for Dunnegan, Mo. to attend church at the Lester Kuhns', if I have it right.

When Noah Ray Chupp came home Tues. evening around 9:00 with his load to Fla. they were there asking him to go to Kalona, Ia. So by 1:00 he picked up the Lloyd Ropps and 2 children, Marlene and Galen, Jay Millers and Linda Miller (Alvin) and left for the funeral of Mrs. George Ropp which was Thurs. They came home again Fri. night.

Cristie A. Millers moved to their new home on Thurs. when it was cloudy and misting most of the day. They have started a new place.

Thurs. evening the Ill. folks and Mose Yoders of here came back from their western trip. The Ill. folks and drivers Dewayne Kuhns spent the evening at the Perry Yoder home. The David Kauffmans and 4 children then spent the night at the Clarence Jay Miller home. Amzy Kauffmans were at Mose Yoders'. They left for their home the next morning at Arthur, Ill. Melvin M.S. Yoders

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 19--Our mild temperatures continue. The fire bushes are in bloom and the daffodils are ready to bloom. Our English peas are up. It's hard to get any work done in the gardens lately as about the time it gets dry enough it rains again. We've been transplanting the past week and have the greenhouse filled up again.

Church was at Herman Stuzmans' on Sunday. They had supper and singing for the neighbors and young folks. Church to be there again in two weeks. Joe Masts will be furnishing eats. Plans are to have baptismal services.

Ray and Marjorie Wagler visited with Grandpa Coblentzes last Sunday and Monday. They are from Milroy, Ind. and were traveling by bus.

Melvin Hershbergers, Freeman Yoders, Allen Yoders, Abe Hershbergers, Herman Yoders and Minister Ben and Esther Troyer attended church at Nelson Yoders' of Chouteau, Okla. last Sunday.

Andy Millers have moved into their new house and Sat. will be moving day for Elmer Yoders.

The Raymond Millers

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 21--Weather has been rather unusual the past week, with freezing rain last week resulting in icy conditions, and after that a warming trend. Tues. night of this week we had a good rain.

We were blessed awhile ago with an enjoyable visit with Sylvan and Ida Miller from Brookfield, Mo. area. They spent the night with dads and after a few stops want to continue on to Phoenix, Ariz. Ida wanted to see where her parents, the Noah Hershbergers, had lived.

Floyd Martins and Elaine from Leon, Ia. were visitors over the weekend with their dau. Rhoda, the Amos Yoders.

Visitors in church Sun. were Don Lehmanns and family from Hagerstown, Md. As I mentioned in a previous letter, he is attending an FAA seminar in Okla. City presently. They had dinner with us then before returning to Okla. City again in the p.m.

Other visitors were Wilmer Helmuth and Lamar Schlabach from Arthur, Ill. They were on their way to Phoenix, Ariz., spending the weekend here with the Gary Schrock. The visitors and our youth group, also Garys and Viola Wingard all had Sun. dinner with Clara and Olen Wingard.

The Sunday evening service was dismissed and a hymn singing was held at dad's in behalf of his birthday the week before. He seemed to enjoy it and helped along with singing.

Last Fri. Clara and Viola Wingard, Gary and Mary Schrock and children, also Lydia Schrock, took dinner in for dads in behalf of his birthday. They had also taken dinner in for mom when she had her birthday in Jan. Mrs. Eli Yoder

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 28--Had nice rains last week then turned cold enough one morning that we had a wet snow during the forenoon.

We've had a warm spell since, over the weekend and now Tues. night it rained again and temp. this morning at the freezing point, so there's some ice accumulation on trees and shrubs.

Perry and Mary Mast, Rhonda, Elaine and Nathan took dinner in to Dad's Sun. which Dads really enjoyed.

Sad news came Sat. morning to relatives here from Clarita, Okla. of the buggy-truck accident that took the life of 8-year-old Rachel Miller, dau. of Norman and Sylvia Jane Miller. Funeral was Tues. Those going from here were: Mrs. Harvey Yoder, Amos D. Millers, Melvin Yoders, Joni Schrocks, also Eli and myself. I had the privilege of getting acquainted with the Budget scribe Raymond Millers from that area.

Our load stopped off to see their craft shop yet before returning home and I would suggest if someone has interests in crafts and you get out that way stop and visit them although you'd likely leave with less cash in your pocket.

Dad says he's feeling pretty good right now. Seems content and enjoys company.

The youth have a pizza supper planned in the home of David and Martha Miller tonight in behalf of her birthday. They also have Bible Study afterwards with Larry Wingard as teacher.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Feb. 26--The last week we had 2 days of cloudy and rainy. The rest of the week was nice.

South church was at Min. Levi Yoders', but they weren't home, so the children went on. Early Fri. morning Levis got word from Clarita that their granddaughter Rachel Sue Miller was in a bad accident and was in the Ada Hospital in critical condition. Her parents, the Norman Millers wanted Levis to come down right away. Early Sat. morning little 8-year-old Rachel passed away. She was an only child. I'm sure the Clarita scribes can give the details better than I can. Normans had lived here several years. Sylvia (wife) grew up here and everybody knows her well. I'm sure Levis know what Normans are going through, as Levis also had a son killed in an accident back in 1984.

The Lloyd Ropps also left for Kalona, Iowa as his father George Ropp passed away early Sat. morning. That funeral is also Tues. forenoon. I don't know who

all went along. Ron Lloyd was their driver.

Mrs. Morris Yoder (Luella) and 2 little girls were planning to spend 2 weeks with her folks, the Lloyd Ropp family. She lives at Hutchinson, Kan. Suppose she went along to the funeral. Her plans had been to go back home Fri. evening with some that were planning to go for the baptismal services of a friend.

Enos and Freda Yoder are the parents of an 8 lb. boy since Feb. 22. He will answer to the name of Nathan and has twin brothers, 3 yrs. old. Grandparents are the Melvin Freys of Topeka, Ind. and the writers. Also has great-grandparents, the Tobe Freys and Jacob E. Mulletts of Topeka, Ind. and the Mose N. Yoders of here.

Alfred Yoder was a lucky fellow. He was trying to light a gas oven and it poofed in his face, which is burned in a few places and eyebrows and beard singed.

The Fernandas Bontragers of Goshen, Ind. were on their way home from Ariz. and stopped at the Lloyd Ropp home, a niece, for the night. Had the evening meal with the Eli Gingerichs.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

March 7--We've enjoyed some more nice rains this week. The forsythia bushes are beginning to bloom and spring flowers coming up.

Visitors in church Sun. were Eddie Planks and 3 sons and Martha Anne Swartzentruber from Montezuma, Ga. Also Don Lehman from Okla. City, David Yoders and dau. from Hutchinson, Ks. and David Guadron from Belize. The Yoders brought David here from Ks. They had dinner with the Truman Schrock family. David plans to stay till next week and then go to Texas.

The Ga. visitors were houseguests with Martha Anne's bro. and wife, the Daniel Swartzentrubers. They all had dinner in the Joni Schrock home. Don Lehman was a guest in the Gary Schrock home for the noon meal.

Keith Mast returned home from C.B.S. with the Planks and Martha Anne; she had been cooking at C.B.S. They left for their home in Ga. Tues. morn.

We are enjoying a week of meetings with David King from Pa. as the evangelist.

MCC meat canning was Mon. and Tues. of this week at Hydro.

Visitors in the area last week were Edwin Ray & Ada Miller, also Aunt Mattie (Mrs. Tobe Miller) from Kalona, Iowa, with Fannie Miller as driver. They were on their way to Lott, Tx. for the wedding of Aunt Mattie's grandson, Floyd Miller. The family took supper in at dad's for them and spent the evening together. They spent the night at dad's and left again Thurs. morn. They visited with Uncle Johns in Clinton Wed. p.m. and also made stops with the Bontrager cousins.

I failed to mention in last week's letter of the death of several Thomas residents. Milt Herring, nearly 91 yrs. old, died Feb. 21st and he was born the 24th of March 1899. He had been in the nursing center till the last week he was in the hospital where he died. Former Ohio people would remember Milt and his working with the Amish people.

Also passing away the same day was Mrs. Fred (Eula Wilburg) Jones, age 79. She also attended school with the Amish children.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

Mar. 5--Another cloudy morning; folks are beginning to wonder if we won't have any real winter this year.

North church was at Orle Detweilers' and is to be at Eli Schrock's next time for Alfred Yoders.

Strangers in church were a load from Ind., Rudys, Johns, and Andy Chupps, Willard Millers, Jeanie Chupp from the Nappanee area and Jacob Mulletts from Topeka and from Minn. were Harvey Chupps; from Fla. Bill Chupp and Bill Detweiler.

These strangers had come for their bro. Sam Chupp's estate sale which was Saturday. I think they sold everything except the few things they still have in Barbara's (wife) room, where she stays mostly in bed, sometimes on the wheelchair. Sams only had 3 children, Nelson who lives on the home place and are taking care of Barbara, 2 girls, Lydia (Mrs. Fenton Miller), Guthrie, Ky. and Clara (Mrs. Wm. Bontrager), Kalona, Iowa.

The Wm. Bontragers, I think 3 children, and Mrs. Fenton Miller and dau. were here a week before to help sort things to get ready for the sale. Fenton, son Marvin and Bobby Detweiler also came for the sale. They left for their home Sat. evening. The Bontragers' plans were to leave this morning. The Ind. load also left early this morning.

The Rudy Chupps spent most of their time with their son Rudy Jr. family. Willard Millers also have a son John and family living here. Jeanie Chupp has a sister here, the Darrel Yoders. Jacob Mulletts, my parents, of course, were here and with mom's sister Bish. Melvin Yoder and dad's sister, the Noah Yoders.

Sat. afternoon Bish. Melvin N. Yoders, Min. Levi Yoders and the Kenneth Knepp family left for Clarita, Ok. and plans were to attend the baptismal services. Mrs. Knepp has a sister living there. Melvins have a dau. and several grandchildren and Levis have a dau., the Norman Millers.

The next to the oldest member in our church, Mrs. Alma Troyer, will be 83 on March 19. Her address is Rt. 1, Inola, Okla. 74036. She has many long and lonely days. She stays alone in her house there by her only child (Katie Mae), the Johnny Chupps.

Eli Gingerichs and Emanuel Yoders spent Sun. evening with Jonas and Delila Yoder at their home at the Shady Rest Home.

Melvin M. S. Yoders

March 5--We've had plenty of rain the last while. Most of us would like to see it stop for awhile so that we can get our gardens planted.

Friday a week ago 3 of Andy Millers' children and Rachel (Normans) Miller were on their way to school when a semi-truck coming from behind hit them, killing the horse and demolished the buggy into small pieces. The children were all thrown into the ditch and along the road side. They were all rushed to the hospital. Rachel was unconscious from the time it happened until she passed away early Sat. morning, dying from massive head injuries and other internal injuries. The funeral was held on Tuesday with many friends and relatives from all areas. I won't attempt to name any.

This was Norman's only child. Rachel was 8 yrs. old and always so active and friendly to everyone.

Andys' children are all home. John, who is 12, has stretched ligaments in his knee and back injuries. Allen Jay (16) was hurt the least, mainly just bumps and bruises. Malinda (9 or 10) has broken leg and arm and other bruises.

I am sure these people would appreciate a word of encouragement at this time. Mail will reach them at Rt. 5, Coalgate, Okla. 74538.

Yesterday we had baptismal services at Herman Stutzmans'. Joe Masts furnished eats. We were blessed with a lot of visitors. Bish. Melvin Yoder of Chouteau, Okla. had the main part, Joe Hershberger of Gonzales, Tx. (anfang) and Ervin Miller from Aylmer, Canada (shrift).

From Gonzales, Texas were Levi and Irene Bontrager, Pre. Joseph and Katie Hershberger and dau. Julie, Danny Joe and Polly Gingerich. Roy D. Miller of Lott, Tx. was their driver. From Pickton, Tx. were the Melvin D. Millers and family, Harvey Troyers and children, Andrew Bylers and children, Miriam and Robert Gingerich. Bobby Bear brought that load.

Jim Welsh of Richmond, Ks. brought John and Bertha Yoder, Clayton Yoder, Alvin W. Yoder, Carolyn Kemp, Laura Keim, Katie and Naomi Keim, Mary Susan and Sara Mae and LaVern Yoder. Also from Kansas were Joe Petersheims, Anna Mae Bontrager, Kenneth Ray Bontrager, Richard Petersheims and Mrs. Elizabeth Bontrager.

From Chouteau, Okla. were Bish. Melvin Yoders, Pre. Levi Yoders, Kenneth Knepps and children, with Velma Williams (driver).

From Aylmer, Canada were Dea. Ervin Millers. From Ohio were Mrs. Jonas Hochstetler and Mrs. Jonas Weaver. Mrs. Emma Kramer of New Glarus, Wisconsin was also here.

Steve M. Hochstetler is home again after spending several months in Ohio. Steve, his aunt, Mrs. Jonas Weaver, and grandma, Mrs. Jonas Hochstetler got stranded in St. Louis, Mi. for 24 hrs. on account of the Greyhound bus strike. They then traveled by Amtrak to Dallas and had somebody bring them home from there. Raymond Miller

Coalgate, Oklahoma

Rachel Sue Miller, daughter of Norman and Sylvia (Yoder) Miller, was born Dec. 30, 1981. She departed this world in the bloom of her life in a truck-buggy accident, Feb. 24, 1990 at the tender age of 8 years, 1 month and 25 days.

She leaves to mourn her father and mother of the home, grandparents, Emanuel D. and Mabel Miller of Fresno, Ohio; Levi and Cora Yoder of Inola, Ok.; great-grandparents, Melvin and Edna Yoder, Chouteau, Ok.; Eli and Martha Gingerich, Inola, Ok.; 6 uncles, 2 aunts, a host of great-uncles and aunts, cousins and friends.

An uncle preceded her in death.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to kind neighbors and friends who helped in many ways; also for food, cards, encouraging words of comfort and prayers.

A precious one from us is gone,
A voice we loved is still;
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.

A sudden change so quickly fell,
Without a chance to say farewell;
Her willing hands and smiling face,
We see no more around the place.

To all of you who have a daughter,
Cherish her with good care;
You'll never know the heartache,
Till you find she isn't there.

When we think of you, dear Rachel,
How our eyes fill up with tears;
Life will be, oh, so lonely,
Since no words from you we hear.

Friends may think we have forgotten,
When at times they see us smile;
But they little know the heartaches,
That the smile hides all the while.

-The Lonely Parents

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

March 14--Some sunny, warm and still days, then also days of high winds and more rain.

Cattle are being taken off of wheat pasture now, either being sold or going to the feed lots.

Donald Lehman from Md. was a visitor in our Sun. morning service and enjoyed being a part of our meetings yet with David King of Pa. the speaker. We enjoyed a carry-in dinner after the services in the fellowship hall.

Lydia Schrock was admitted to the Weatherford hospital Mon. Her breathing problem was worse again lately. She did attend several evenings of our meetings but with the high humidity last week it made it more difficult for her breathing.

Henry Wengers visited with Dads Mon. Dad seems about as usual right now.

Thurs. evening the youth, also Larry Wingards have supper and Bible Study in the Amos C. Yoder home.

Frank Hooper came home from the Baptist hospital in Okla. City this week. He is seriously ill with cancer, he has it in the head and also through out his body. Drs. gave him very little time left.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

March 12--Another cloudy morning after a rainy weekend. We had 3½" of rain and more the first of the week. Around here you can't go by the old saying of "More rain, more rest, for the lazy in the West." Seems there's always something to do, especially on a farm.

South church was at Levi Yoders' for their son Marvin's. They had baptismal services for Miriam Yoder (Alva) and Marianna Mast (Joe).

Also had 2 couples published to be married. One is April 5 for Gary Yoder (son of Everett) and Ruth Yoder (dau. of Levi). Then April 17 is Daniel Yoder (son of Nelson) and Katherine Yoder (dau. of Perry).

Tues. evening Freddie Bontragers from Augusta, Wisc. came to spend 2 nights and 2 days with his aunt, the Melvin N. Yoder family, also an uncle, Sam N. Millers. They also made several stops with the cousins and Mrs. Anna Mast, who is related to Mrs. Bontrager. They are traveling by bus and plans are to be gone about 2 weeks, making stops in Ky., Ohio, Mich. and Ind.

Melvin M. S. Yoders

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

March 21--It has been cooler the last few days. We had frost yest. morning. The rains have stopped, now if our garden dries off we will finally plant our seeds. We were just ready to plant about a month ago, then the rains came. The Boggy River overflowed and the bottom lands were flooded.

Our church services were at Herman Stutzmans' Sun., the 18th with Ora Hochstetlers furnishing eats. Next services to be at Dan Mast's. Church visitors were Noah and Howard Millers of northern Ind. Noah's wife is an aunt to Dorothy Stutzman. From Chouteau were Mose Yoders, Joe Mast's, Glen Detweilers, Emanuel Yoders and their dau. and husband and family. They all spent the night at Freeman Yoders' except Joe Mast's were at Dan Mast's.

Raymond Millers came back from their Oh. trip Sun. evening. They had attended the funeral of Elsie's great-aunt and spent some time visiting her parents, Ben Hochstetlers, and also attended the wedding of Elsie's niece, Mary, to David Weaver. They traveled with Myron Hershbergers of Pickton, Tex. Bobby Bear was their driver. Myrons attended the same funeral, this being Mary's grandmother.

We spent yest. afternoon and evening with Andy Millers at Valley View Hosp. in Ada. Allen Jay Miller, son of Andy Millers, underwent surgery to correct head injuries which occurred in the truck-buggy accident on Feb. 23rd. Allen was thought to be the least injured at the time, but later they discovered a break in the skull on the forehead which had overlapped, then healed that way.

The operation lasted 2 hours. He was also in recovery for 2 hours, then taken to the intensive care unit. Before we left the hosp. last evening he opened his eyes and spoke a few words. Elmer and Anna Mary Yoder and Mrs. Vernon Miller also came to the hosp. last evening, with Win and Linda Rice of Clarita bringing them. We went home with them then. Andy and Mary stayed for the night. Pat Gurly was at the hosp. all afternoon. She and her husband came back in the evening. She owns Country Trunk in Ada and Andys bake for her store.

Sylvia Miller spent the day with Kathryn and Malinda Miller yest. while Andys were at the hosp. Malinda still has her arm and leg in a cast, but can be up and about some. They have enjoyed their many cards, letters and gifts they received since the accident. John has been going to school, but his back is hurting him now. Allen Jay had also been going to school and seemed to be doing well.

Mrs. Allen Yoder has a quilting tomorrow, with the quilts going for the school consignment sale in Sept.

The young folks had a birthday supper and volleyball game at Raymond Millers' last evening in honor of John Henry Miller and Mose Hershberger.

Raymond Millers have asked us to take their place as scribe for this community.

The Martin Hochstetlers

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

March 19--A nice sunshine morning after a week of clouds, high winds and hard rains. We are having high water, some is back up water and a few roads closed. They have been fixing our roads, bridges and putting in culverts which were badly needed.

North church was at Eli Schrock's for Alfred Yoders and is to be at Elis' again next time.

Pre. Mose Yoders, Emanuel Yoders and dau., Joe Masts, Glen Detweilers and Glen Christners and 2 daus. left Sat. morning for Clarita, Okla. to spend the weekend there.

Fri. morning we got word from Gonzales, Tex. that we have another grandson, Shawn David, to son Merle and Liz Yoder. He will have a birthday on March 16. The grandparents are Joe and Lydia Gingerich of Stephenville, Tex. Also has 3 sets of great-grandparents, the Tobe Detweilers of Jamesport, Mo., Jacob E. Mulletts of Topeka, Ind. and Mose Yoders of here.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

March 20--Windy weather and also some warmer days. Cold nights. Apricot trees are in full bloom. Garden planting is being done as it dries off enough to get in.

Lydia Schrock came home from the hosp. Fri. p.m. She had an infection in the blood and was treated with antibiotics through the IVs while she was there and is taking them orally now since she's home. She can have visitors if the visits are short, as lengthy visits tend to wear her out. Her address is Rt. 1, Thomas, Ok. 73669 if someone would like to send her a word of cheer.

Paul Miller from Paris, Tx. was a Tues. night visitor with dads.

Last Wed. Truman and Freeman Schrock took David Guadron to Lott, Tx., to go back to Belize with the Andy Mullet family. David had stayed with the Truman Schrock family during the time he spent in this area.

Last Fri. the church ladies served lunch at the R. L. Cline farm sale south of Thomas.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

March 26--The first of the week it was warm enough that some had garden fever but till Fri. morning it was raining and till evening it was mostly sleet and of course colder. Sat. morn. temperature was down in the upper teens. Early flowers, budded trees, etc. got their noses pretty cold. It has warmed up again some.

South church was at Ivan Gingerichs'.

Lavern and family and Freeman Ropps came on Tues. and left again Fri. morn. for their home in Kalona, Ia. They spent their time with their parents, the Lloyd Ropp family and sister, the Jay Millers. Orvan Ropps were their drivers. They spent their time with her brother and family, the Chrissie Millers.

The children of the late Noah D. Yoders received the death message from Ohio of a cousin, Mrs. Nelson Yoder. Some got the death message from Jame-sport, Mo. of Menno Yoder.

Sun. came a death message from Kalona, Ia. of an 8-year-old of Dennis Yoders who got in a grain bin and suffocated.

Perry, Marvin Yoders and children Ruth and Gary Yoder left for Clarita, Okla. Sun. morning. Plans were to come back again in the evening. Noah Ray Chupp was the driver.

Ivan Gingerichs, 2 children and Mrs. David Yoder and dau., with Noah Ray Chupp as driver, left for Clark, Mo. Tues. evening for a wedding and came back again Fri. Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

March 25--Sat. morn. temp. was in the low 20s with icy conditions and the daytime temp. stayed in the 20s, plus more sleet. It was quite unusual to hear heavy thundering with ice everywhere.

Wheat fields will likely show damage from these frigid temps. when it's lasted this long. Often times this time of the year we may have an overnight freeze, but warmer again the next day, which doesn't damage too much.

Visitors last week with Dads were Herman Bontrager and Don Fiegler from Akron, Pa. for a visit. Fri. night Jerome Masts from Fairview, Mo. spent

the night with them. They left for their home again Sat. morn. braving the icy roads.

Earl & Irene Wingard plan to spend some time with his parents, Clarence Wingards at Montezuma, Ga. They're leaving early Mon. morn. Clarence doesn't seem to be doing as well lately.

Lydia Schrock is improving slowly and gradually feeling more strength to be up and around some, but rests a lot. Dad is the same as he's been for some time.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

March 26--We had more rain again yesterday with ice covering the trees and fences. The purple martins are returning and seem rather bewildered.

I'm writing this at the Mason Medical Clinic in Atoka. We brought our son Steve in to see the doctor. He's been sick for about a week now and isn't getting much better. We had taken him to the Coalgate Hospital emergency room last Wed. eve. He was treated for infection and told he had the flu. The medication given hasn't brought any results, so we came here to further check out the problem.

We just now discovered, after running tests on blood samples, that it's a good chance he has Rocky Mountain tick fever. This can be treated if taken care of properly. There is also a possibility of walking pneumonia. He is on different antibiotics now.

Allen Jay Miller might be coming home from Valley View Regional Hospital tomorrow. His mother stayed with him on Sunday; his bro. Andrew spent Sat. night with him and sister Kathryn was with him Fri. night.

Joe Masts have started milking part-time for the Nelsons' dairy.

Norman Miller had company for dinner on Sun. Their guests brought dinner along. They were Sylvia's bros. and sister, Perry Lee and Marvin Yoders and families, and Ruth and Gary Yoder, all of Chouteau, Ok. Ruth and Gary are published to be married April 5th.

We were to Norman's a little while Sun. eve. Norman's bro. Glen was also there. He plans to start for Ohio tomorrow. He has been here since the funeral. He did the chores at Normans' today as they and Robert Millers went to Chouteau for the day to help with Daniel Yoder's basement house at Nelson Yoder's. John Henry, Reuben and Mary Miller were at Norman's this eve. to visit Glen yet before he left for Ohio.

Norman and Sylvia have had company almost every eve. which they appreciate. Also the many cards and letters of encouragement which they still receive.

Hopefully, we will plant garden tomorrow. Quite a few others have planted theirs in between the rains.

Winter wheat and rye pastures are doing well with all the wet weather, but we also need sunshine now and warmer temp. to give things a boost.

Someone left a shawl at Norman's the day of the funeral, also a child's blue coat. They haven't been claimed yet.

The Martin Hochstetlers

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

April 2--We enjoyed beautiful rains again last week, giving us nice moisture for spring growth. Early radishes and lettuce are up that had been put in before the rains.

Lydia Schrock was in church again Sunday and continues to gain more strength gradually.

Dorothy (Wingard) Kuhns and twins from Arthur, Ill. travelled to Okla. City with Abe's son-in-law Darrell Miller Mon. night and was met there by her mother, Clara Wingard. Darrell travelled on to Lott, Tx. from there for his forthcoming wedding on Fri. Dorothy will spend several days here and expects Abe and Lois to join her here by Thurs. and then also attend the wedding at Lott on Fri. Clara will keep the twins while Abes go on to the wedding.

The Min. Clyde Yoder family plans to spend some time at Montezuma, Ga. this week.

Amos and Bertha Miller are spending this week with their son and family, the Gary Millers at Middlebury, Ind. Our dau. Ruth Ann is helping with the milking there this week while they're gone.

Dad was more weak this past week. We have a dr. appointment for him on Fri., but he's content and seems happy.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

April 2--This has been a cloudy week with some rain.

North church was at Eli Schrock's and is to be at Glen Christners' next time. Only strangers there were Melvin Freys and son Jay from Topeka, Ind.

Eli Gingerich had a tumble and tore some ligaments loose in his side that he could hardly get around. Alma Troyer hurt her leg when she fell awhile back already, now the doctor has it wrapped up and is to leave it on for a few weeks.

Last Mon. morn. Enos Yoders had a big surprise when her parents, the Melvin Freys drove in to spend a week with them. That day Enoses got the letter they were coming. They and Howard Yoders and 3 children came with Claude Marner. Howards then spent Mon. with her sister, the Alva Yoders. Tues. morn. Howards and Alvas left for Haven, Kan. to spend some time with the women's parents, Amos P. Borntragers, who haven't been too well this past winter. They came back again Sat., then the Ind. folks left for their home Sun. eve.

Tues. morn. Walter Pitts took Nelson Yoders to Kalona, Iowa to attend the funeral of the 8-year-old boy of Dennis Yoders. They came home Fri. eve.

Fri. sometime with Ron Lloyd, the Chrissie Millers, sons Leroy, Steven and Samuel, Galen Ropp and Linda Miller went to Kalona, Iowa to attend the wedding of Chrissie's youngest bro., Steven. Their plans are to come home today. Cristie A. Millers were staying with the rest of Chrissies' children and helping with the chores. Plans are for Linda to stay in Iowa again for the time being.

Norman E. and Robert Millers were in the community last Mon. and left again for their home in Clarita.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

April 2--The sun has been shining the last couple days with temp. going up to 80°. Weatherman says we've had over 25 inches of rain since the rains began about 2 months ago. The local ranchers say it's the wettest spring they've seen in years.

Our state bird, the scissor-tailed flycatcher, can be seen along the roadside perched on fences or wire lines. It is a beautiful bird, pale pearly gray with an extremely long scissor-like tail. The sides and wing linings are salmon pink.

Steve will be going back to see the dr. on Wednesday. We took him to the hospital emergency in Atoka on Friday eve. He had severe stomach pains. This is something which accompanies the fever. Rocky Mountain spotted fever can last 5 to 6 weeks. Steve has been sick two weeks now. The dr. said it's just been 12 yrs. or so that they really know how to treat this.

Church was at Dan Mast's. To be there again in 2 weeks. Sunday eve. visitors here with us were the Andy Miller family and Noah and Anna Coblentz. Allen Jay and Malinda came along with Andys. Malinda had a new cast put on her leg. She gets around fairly well. She and Allen Jay were both in church Sunday.

Mrs. Herman Yoder and daughter Ruth and Mrs. Abe Hershberger and children spent Thursday with Mrs. Norman Miller. Norman and Sylvia left this morning for her parents' home in Chouteau. They want to help with preparations for the upcoming wedding of Sylvia's sister Ruth on April 5th. On Tuesday (April 3) they want to attend a hospital aid meeting in Kansas.

The schoolgirls from Elm Creek School visited Malinda Miller last Wednesday eve. and stayed the night in honor of her birthday. The next evening the neighbors reminded Mary, Malinda's mother, of her birthday. Both are on the same day.

We have had many letters asking us what Oklahoma really looks like. That

all depends on who you talk to and what part of Oklahoma you go. Here in our settlement the land is from flat to rolling. Some of our people have dairies. This is also cattle country with many of the local old-timers having ranches. Some people say this is the land of extreme. When it's wet, it's very wet, and when it's dry, it's very dry. The southeastern corner close to the Arkansas line has yellow pine forests, with logging operations in full swing.

We enjoy the short winters. We don't need large barns or loafing sheds to keep our cattle during the winter. The winter grazing on wheat and rye pastures beats feeding hay all winter long, although we do feed hay during the coldest weather.

The Martin Hochstetters

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

April 9--Cloudy and on the cool side. Temp. 65°. There are tornado warnings out for the northern part of the state.

We just got back from Dr's. Park in Ada, where we had taken Steve to see a specialist. They took more tests. Our dr. in Atoka sent us there. He had arranged for the appointment. We won't get the reports of the tests till late tomorrow. Steve feels a little better but is still very weak.

Last week 3 youngfolks from West Union, Ohio arrived at Raymond Millers'. They were Eddie Yutzy, Joe Smucker and Kathryn Yoder. Their driver went on to Tyler, Texas to visit relatives. The West Union youngfolks, along with Susan, Mary, John Henry, and Rueben Miller, were here Tues. eve. to visit Steve.

The above named all went to Stephenville, Texas, on Wed., coming back Thurs. p.m.

Mark Hershbergers of Kalona, Iowa visited with their daughter and family, the Robert Millers several days last week. Their driver took the load to Stephenville then.

Last Wed. Herman Yoders and 2 daughters Lori and Ruth, Mrs. Abe Hershberger and children left for Chouteau attending the wedding at Levi Yoders' on Thursday. Allen Yoders and Freeman Yoders left for the same wedding early Thurs. morning Both loads came home Thurs. eve. again.

Andy Millers had a pleasant surprise on Friday evening when supper was brought in by Herman Stutzmans, Herman Yoders, Joe Masts, Ora Hochstetlers and Raymond Millers. Most of the youngfolks were there, too, including the 3 from West Union.

Elmer Yoder's construction crew had a farewell supper at Elmers' Sat. eve. for Edward Yoders. Those present were Andy Millers, Freeman Yoders, Norman Millers, both of the drivers David, and Homer and their families, the 4 of us and the guests of honor, Edward Yoders. We took Steve home soon after supper.

Edwards will be moving to Ludington, Mich. in 2 weeks.

Sun. afternoon visitors with us were Noah and Anna Coblentz and some youngfolks. Supper and singing was at Dan Masts'. The Martin Hochstetlers

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

April 9--The last week has been some cooler. Menfolks are getting anxious to get in the fields. Some have planted corn.

South church was at Ivan Gingerichs' for David Knepps. Min. Jay Yoders of Spencer, Wis. were there, besides Ray Yoder, 3 children of Topeka, Ind. and Lavern Yoders of Haven, Kan.

Last Mon. the Norman E. Millers of Clarita, Ok. came to help get ready for the wedding of her sister at the Levi Yoders', which was Thurs.

Tues. 2 van loads were to Haven, Kan. for the A.H.A. meeting, so the Lloyd Ropps went along to help their dau., the Morris Yoders get ready for their sale that was on Thurs. Then on Thurs. Ron Lloyd took a trailer up to Hutchinson to bring Lloyds and some stuff along back again that evening. Morris Yoders are moving to Millersburg, Ohio.

Thurs. was the wedding at Levi Yoders' for their dau. Ruth and Gary, son of Everett Yoders. Were married by her grandfather, Bish. Melvin N. Yoder.

Their attendants were Steven Yoder (Everett) and Barbara Jean Miller (Norman), Wayne Yoder (Levi) and Esther Yoder (Em.). Tablewaiters were Orva Miller and Martha Yoder (Em.), Daniel Yoder (Nelson) and Katherine Yoder (Perry), Larry Detweiler (Eli) and Marianna Mast (Joe), Leland Detweiler (Joe), Shipshewana, Ind. and Anna Marie Yoder (Alva); Michael Yoder (Mervin) and Lori Yoder (Herman), Clarita, Ok.; Willis Detweiler (Orie) and Leona Miller (Floyd); Dinal and Salina Yoder (Everett).

Gary and Ruth were honored to have 4 sets of grandparents here. Melvin and Edna Yoder, Eli and Mattie Gingerich, Noah and Sarah Yoder and Bill and Cassie Detweiler.

Strangers that came for the wedding were from Spencer, Wis., the Min. Jay Yoders; Kalona, Ia., Albert Yoders and baby; Haven, Kan., Lavern Yoder and dau. and Jerry Beechy, Topeka and Shipshewana, Ind.; Ray Yoder and 3 children and Joe Detweiler and 4 children; Clarita, Okla., Norman E. Millers,

Abe Hershbergers and baby, Allens and baby, Hermans and 2 children and Freeman, all Yoders; also Wayne Yoder and Levi M. Yoders of Ind.

Jay Yoders, Ray Yoders, Lavern Yoders and Wayne Yoder were spending the weekend with their paents, the Noah Yoder family. Albert Yoders already left for their home Fri. morning.

Paul Kroeker left for Fla. the latter part of last week to bring Henry Kroekers home for the summer.

The newlyweds, Gary and Ruth, have moved in a trailer at her folks'.

Nelson Yoders are putting up a house for their son Daniel to move in after he gets married to Katherine Yoder (Perry) next week.

Mrs. Mervin Miller is to be admitted to the hospital for tests this morning.

Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

April 10--Rain showers and lots of wind and more chilly again. We have been amazed how the shrubs and flowers survived our late freezes. Wheat fields haven't shown much damage at this point, although that would likely show up later. Blossoms on fruit trees were damaged.

We had a lot of visitors Sunday who had attended the wedding on Sat. of Terry Yoder and Wanda Miller at Lott, Tx. A carry-in dinner was enjoyed after the service. From Kalona, Ia. were Wanda's grandpa, Jonathan and Emma (Stutzman) Miller. From Garnett, Ks. were Terry's grandparents, Clarence and Fannie Yoder, also Harley Yoders and 4 children.

From the Goshen, Ind. area were Elmer C. Yoders, Herbert Yoders, Lyndon Hershbergers, also Edith Hershberger and Wanda Schrock. From Montezuma, Ga. were Perry Yoders.

From Arthur, Ill. were Abe and Dorothy Kuhns, the twins and Lois, also Abe's grandson, Caleb Miller.

Truman Schrock, Loretta and Lisa also Amos C. Yoders attended the Yoder and Miller wedding at Tx. Sat.

Jonathan and Emma arrived here last week at Trumans' and went with them to the wedding.

Monday evening Trumans and Jonathans took supper in for Dads and spent the evening with them.

Clarence Yoders went with their son Perry and Elizan back to Ga. to visit Fannie's bro. Clarence Wingard. They left today and the other visitors all left by now too.

We picked up Dads after the service Sun. and took them over for the carry-in dinner also. Dad had a weak spell last week that he couldn't walk one day and then Fri. when I took him to the dr. he found a kidney infection, so he's on antibiotic now.

Merlene Wingard and dau. Bonnie and Martha Miller and baby Monica left this morning by plane for Ind. and expect to travel with their sister from there to a wedding in Va. They also plan to visit their grandma at northern Ind. before returning home.

Mrs. Eli Yoder

COALGATE, OKLAHOMA

April 16--Thundershowers on Easter Sunday with a tornado watch for the Clarita area. The south end of our community had about 3" rain with hail, but Clarita had golf ball size hail.

Our community has had a lot of activity the past week with a quilting at Dan Masts' last Tues. for Edward Yoders' 2 quilts, the one being a farewell gift from the community, the other a top Ruby's grandmother Lena had pieced. On the 11th the Elm Creek School had their picnic day. The 4 pupils who graduated from 8th grade this year were Tobias Yoder, Esther Hershberger, Miriam Stutzman and Cindy Miller. A game of softball was enjoyed by young and old in the afternoon.

At Norman Millers' on Fri. p.m. were Susan, Mary, John and Reuben Miller. The young folks and Vernon Millers were all here on Fri. eve. to see Steve, bringing a sunshine box along. He is gaining some and eats better. He was able to be in church awhile Sun. We have an appointment with his dr. in Atoka again tomorrow. Since the young folks were all here anyways on Fri. eve., we served cake and ice cream in honor of Edwin's 17th birthday.

Church was at Dan Masts' yesterday with Ben B. Troyers of Stephenville, Texas present. Mrs. Levi B. Troyer and 2 children came along with Bens and spent Sat. p.m. and night at her parents', the Raymond Millers. She and the children also attended church. Next church services to be at Ben J. Troyers'.

Tomorrow, the 17th, is moving day for John Henry Stutzmans. They bought a property here and are moving from Sulphur Springs, Tx. Elmer Yoder's carpenter crew was remodeling John Henry's house and adding several new rooms. Bruce Troyer is making the cabinets.

Elmer Yoder has had 2 crews going for the most part of this last year. Our son Edwin is helping the crew which is working on a log house northeast of Coalgate. This is a large 3-story house with 7,500 sq. ft., including the proches. Elmer started this job in Nov. It took 10 men and a crane 3½ days to set up all the logs which arrived from Victor, Montana on 4 different trucks. Most of the logs were 44 ft. long and had been assembled before being hauled here. This house has over 22,000 board ft. of 2x6 tongue and groove for the ceilings and floors. The roof is a 5 V crimp colored metal. The basement is poured concrete.

Melvin Hershbergers are building a larger store for their bulk foods and baked goods. Ben J. Troyer is helping with the building.

The Martin Hochstetlers

CHOUTEAU, OKLAHOMA

April 16--Has been cooler and cloudy & we've had 2 in. of rain this last week. Sunday we also had hail and acted stormy. Field work is at a standstill. Early garden things are up. Some corn has been planted.

Northchurch was at Glen Christners' and to be at Emanuel Yoders' next time. Strangers in church were Dea. Joni Gingeriches and their granddaughter Arlene Gingerich (Clarence) and Lester Miller (Albert), all of the Nappanee, Ind. area. From Arthur, Ill. were Amzy Kauffmans and 3 daus., Catherine, Rebecca and Mary and son Lloyds and their dau. Malinda Sue. Several families from the South dist. also.

Joni Gingeriches are staying with his bro., the Eli Gingeriches. Lester Miller has a bro. Cristie A. Miller living here. The Ill. folks and driver John E. Lee all spent Sat. night at the Mose Yoders'.

Walter Lehmans and her sister Lydia Miller (Jacob W.) of the Middlebury, Ind. area all came with the Nappanee load.

Mrs. Mervin D. Miller had surgery to remove a cyst instead of taking tests as I had written last week. She had to stay in hospital 4 days. Leona Miller is helping them with their work.

Dale Yoders also had company from Ind. from Thurs. till Sun. They were Mary's sister, the David Lambrights and 2 children and Lydia Miller (Joe B. Jr.) and bro. Noah Millers and dau. Dora, all from the Shipshewana area.

Irvin Jay Millers were missed in church. He broke a rib and she has bronchitis.

Most of these strangers that were here for the weekend are planning to stay for the big day tomorrow for Daniel Yoder (Nelsons) and Katherine Yoder's (Perrys) wedding. Melvin M.S. Yoders

THOMAS, OKLAHOMA

April 17--Unsettled weather continues. Mon. temp. went to 80° then later in the evening we had a thunderstorm with high wind and hail. Last Fri. evening a severe hailstorm went through the El Reno area so that I-40 was blocked off awhile. Reports were that of 6 to 8" depth of hail on the highway. A lot of new roofing is being done from the damages.

Floyd and Earl Yoder from Pa., sons of Amos and Susan Yoder, spent the weekend of the 8th here and also part of last week before returning home again. They had also attended the wedding of their cousin Terry Yoder at Lott, Tx. I had failed to mention them in last week's letter.

Relatives received word Wed., the 11th of the death of Walter Stelting, cousin Fannie's husband at El Reno. He had been a cancer victim for quite some time. His age was 67. Services were Sat. Relatives attending the funeral from here other than Fannie's sisters and husbands and also Frank Bontrager and his wife from Wichita, Ks. were Clara Wingard, Mrs. Melvin (Fannie) Yoder, Mel and Kathy Miller and Eli and myself. From Ks. were Henry Miller, Roy and Alice Stutzman and Mrs. Sam (Mary Ann) Miller.

Mrs. Merlene Wingard and dau. Bonnie and Mrs. Martha Miller and baby are expected back Wed. evening from attending a wedding in Va.

Earl and Irene Wingard came home Sat. evening after spending several weeks in Ga. with his parents, the Clarence Wingards.

Min. Clyde and Marilyn Yoder and girls returned home Sat. from their trip to Ga. Their son Glendon had stayed with his grandparents, Amos Yoders, while they were gone.

Dad remains about the same, but Mom is very tired and wornout, but still tries to care for Dad alone.

Relatives here received word Sun. from Montezuma, Ga. of the death of Mrs. Mark Brenneman. Glen and Darlene Yoder left Mon. evening. Funeral is to be Wed. Mrs. Eli Yoder

B1
Beachy 2-3
Bear 11-14
Beechy 19
Bender 2-5
Bontrager 1-2-9-10-11-13
16-22
Borntrager 17
Brenneman 22
Byler 11
C1
Christner 15-17-22
Chupp 1-2-4-8-10-16
Cline 15
Coblentz 8-18-19
D1
Detweiler 1-4-8-10-14-15-19
F1
Fiegler 16
Frey 9-17
Fry 1
G1
Gingerich 4-7-9-10-11-12-15
16-17-19-22
Guadron 10-15
H1
Helmuth 8
Henry 21
Herring 10
Hershberger 1-3-7-8-11-14
18-19-20-21
Hochstetler 1-7-11-14-16-18
19-21
Hooper 13
Hostetler 3
J1
Jones 10
K1
Kauffman 4-8-22
Keim 11
Kemp 11
King 10-13
Knepp 1-10-11-19
Kramer 11
Krocker 4
Kroeker 19
Kuhn 8-17-20
L1
Lambright 22
Lee 16-22
Lehman 2-8-10-13-22
Lloyd 9-17-19
M1
Marner 17
Martin 8
Mast 3-5-8-9-10-11-13-14-15
16-18-19-21
Miller 1-2-3-4-5-8-9-10-11
12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20
21-22

Mullet 9-10-15
P1
Park 19
Petersheim 11
Pitts 17
Plank 10
R1
Rice 14
Ropp 1-2-4-8-9-16-17-19
S1
Schlabach 8
Schrock 1-2-3-5-8-9-10-13
15-16-17-20
Smucker 3-19
Stelting 22
Stoltzfus 2
Stutzman 1-2-3-11-14-19-20
21-22
Stuzman 8
Swartzentruber 10
T1
Troyer 1-3-4-6-7-8-10-11-17
21
W1
Wagler 8
Weaver 11-14
Welsh 11
Wenger 13
Wilburg 10
Williams 1-11
Wingard 2-5-8-9-13-16-17-20-22
Y1
Yoder 1-2-3-4-5-7-8-9-10-11
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